

Year	No. of receiving sets supplied
1997-98	39
1998-99	30
1999-2000	—

(b) It has been the constant endeavour of the Govt. to provide quality Radio service throughout the length and breadth of the country. Because of its unique features of low cost, convenience of use at any location, mobility etc. Radio occupies a distinct and important place in the media. In order to provide variety and new services through this medium, Government has recently decided to issue licenses to Private Indian Companies to operate FM Radio Stations in the country.

#### **Launching of package for North-East States**

74. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that he has launched a North-East package of his department at Guwahati;
- (b) if so, the detailed package to be implemented in the North-East States, State-wise;
- (c) by when the transmitter power of AIR, Imphal will be up-graded from 1 KW to 10 KW; and
- (d) the measures taken to extend the information at village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) A proposal to strengthen AIR and Doordarshan coverage in North Eastern States and to improve the quality and reach of the programmes in this region is under consideration of the Government.

- (c) A new 10 KW FM Tr. at AIR Imphal is targeted to be completed during 2000-2001.
- (d) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government extend the imformation through Radio and TV coverage to the rural areas of the country in general and North-East in particular.